

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Kang et al. (hereinafter "Kang"), U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0035021. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an outdoor centrifugal fan positioned opposite to the outdoor heat exchanger that generates a centrifugal force to blow the outdoor air, wherein the outdoor centrifugal fan comprises a hub formed in a disc shape, and connected to a driving motor by a rotational shaft, a plurality of blades each having one end protruding from a surface of the hub, and disposed at an outer side of the hub in a circumferential direction with the same interval therebetween, and a supporting ring coupled to another end of each of the plurality of blades to support the plurality of blades. Kang does not disclose or suggest at least such features, or the claimed combination of independent claim 1.

Rather, Kang discloses an air conditioner unit having a fan 70 on an outdoor side. The fan 10, as shown in Fig. 2, is clearly an axial fan, similar to the axial fan shown in Figures 1-2 of the present application. Axial fans suck air into the fan in an axial direction of the hub, and

discharge the sucked air in the axial direction. In contrast, independent claim 1 recites an outdoor centrifugal fan. Centrifugal fans suck air into the fan in an axial direction of the hub, and discharge the sucked air in a radial direction of the hub. One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that 1) Kang discloses an axial outdoor fan; and 2) that axial and centrifugal fans are not equivalent.

Further, Kang does not disclose or suggest an outdoor centrifugal fan comprising a hub formed in a disc shape, and connected to a driving motor by a rotational shaft, a plurality of blades having one end protruding from a surface of the hub, and disposed at an outer side of the hub in a circumferential direction with the same interval therebetween, and a supporting ring coupled to another end of each of the plurality of blades to and support the plurality of blades, as recited in independent claim 1. The Examiner refers to element 72 as corresponding to the claimed supporting ring. Element 72 is disclosed by Kang as a ring fitted to an outdoor end of the fan 70 for splashing condensate on a floor of the base pan 30 to the outdoor heat exchanger 80 during rotation of the fan 70. See paragraph 68 of Kang. However, nowhere does Kang disclose a hub formed in a disc shape, and connected to a driving motor by a rotational shaft, a plurality of blades having one end protruding from one surface of the hub, and disposed at an outer side of the hub in a circumferential direction with the same interval therebetween, or that the ring is coupled to another end of each of the plurality of blades to support the plurality of blades.

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Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 1 over Kang should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2-3 are allowable over Kang at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejected claims 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kang. The rejection is respectfully traversed in so far as it applies to the pending claims.

Dependent claims 5-8 are allowable over Kang at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 5-8 over Kang should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

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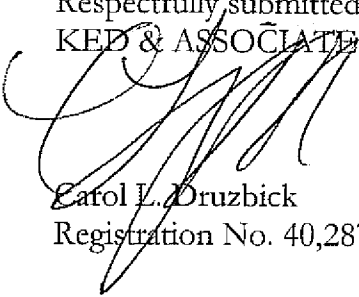
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If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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